

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2012**

In Attendance:

Dave Colteryahn, chair
Greg LoBuono, vice-chair
Veronica Craig, recording secretary
Becky Montag
Bob Breen, Parks Board Liaison
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative

Notified absences: Brian DeRoo and Chuck Ulrich

Un-notified absences: Mitch Rhodus, Mike Lane and Boyd Miller

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. chairperson Dave Colteryahn.

Minutes: Lack of a quorum prevented the approval of last month's meeting minutes.

Standing Business

Correspondence/Articles: Dave was pleased to report that Wildwood's Condo Association is promoting recycling for its residents. Information was provided for obtaining the current recycling bins through the City, and also the upcoming 65 gallon wheeled containers.

EC Activity Hours: Dave/1, Greg/1.5, Becky/3, Veronica/2.

Adopt-a-Roadway: Becky, Brian and Bob will do the next clean-up.

Parks Board Report

Bob reported a light meeting because they held an interview. He extended an invitation to the EC, and the community, to attend the Huffman Park ribbon cutting ceremony on October 27. This is a way to show our appreciation for the very generous gift of land and funds by the Huffman Family.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: There was a jump in visitors and pages viewed. The bounce rate was down.

SW Ohio Urban Forestry Conference: Ben and a number of City employees attended the Annual Urban Forestry Conference in Mount Airy, where ash tree removal was discussed at length. Cities are faced with the reality of "private vs. public." All agreed that this is a difficult, often emotional issue, and that infected trees must be removed, however unpopular the decision may be.

EAB Removal Grant Update: Ash trees along Woodridge marked with white circles will be removed in the next couple of months. Replanting will begin in the spring and completed by the end of May, as specified. After marked trees are cut down, they will be taken to an area near the Wastewater Plant and ground later this year to the specific, deregulated size. Once small enough, the chips no longer pose a threat for continuing the infestation, and they are thereby deregulated. The chips will then be available for residents to use as mulch.

Dave and Bob had questions and suggestions about replacement tree choices. They would like to see a wide diversity that includes species such as ginkgo and tulip poplars. Other EC members

agree. Ben will coordinate with Public Works and Dave Butsch, using Wendi's Street Tree Academy information to make the best choices for the area.

Asian Long Horned Beetle: Ben will forward Wendi's e-mail about Clermont County's effort to begin replanting after the ALHB infestation. There will be a "Planting Event" to replenish some of the 8600 trees removed from that area. The goal is to plant 300 to 400 new trees. The ALHB is a slower moving bug than the EAB, with a dozen host species. However, it was discovered that many other types of trees, not on the preferred species list, also were infected.

Huffman Park: The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on October 27. Development of the educational areas continues, and the City hopes to recycle some of their unused materials in the various learning and play stations.

Fruit trees have been planted, and community gardens will be built. The City will provide the structures, and users will plant and maintain produce of their choice.

Commissioner Reports—New Goals

Memorial Tree Grove: The EC feels it is important to continue work on the Memorial Grove, which was initially proposed in 2004. To complete the walkway, more grassy pavers will be put into place. A Planting Plan must be created to ensure the best possible long-term design for such an area. Once this master plan is made, the public can begin to select "honor" or "memorial" trees. These trees will be part of an approved list, to be planted in designated areas.

EC members asked Ben if he would see if funding will be available in the operational budget. He will bring an aerial map of the Memorial Grove to the next meeting.

Public Education: The Fairfield Lane Library has asked the EC to identify the various species of trees on their grounds. This tree catalog will be available to their patrons. The EC would like to complete this project in 2013.

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting – October 9, 2012 at 5:30 pm, CAC

Huffman Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – October 27, 2012 at 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

EC Meeting – November 7, 2012 at 6:00 pm, CAC

Adjournment: at 7:25 pm.